

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03  
ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00  
BIB-01 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00 VO-05 /104 W  
-----027886 150708Z /13

R 141145Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4419  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDONQP  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
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VALLETTA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CSCE, NATO, BU, WTO  
SUBJECT: CSCE IMPLEMENTATION QUESTIONNAIRE ANDUSMMITORING OF  
WARSAW PACT CSCE IMPLEMENTATION

REF: A) 76 STATE 224882; B) 76 STATE 84043; C) 76 SOFIA 2300;  
D) 76 SOFIA 913; E) 77 SOFIA 2231; F) 75 SOFIA 2372;  
G) STATE 65811 (NOTAL); H) STATE 88805 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THIS REPORT CONSIDERS THE BULGARIAN RECORD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT FOR A SIXTH SIX-MONTH PERIOD, JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1977, SINCE HELSINKI. THIS PERIOD COINCIDED IN PART WITH THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE AND, WITH ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS, BULGARIA STOOD PAT WITH THE HAND IT HAD DEALT ITSELF IN PREPARATION FOR BELGRADE. EARLY 1977'S ACCELERATED TEMPO OF FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS AND MEETINGS CONTINUED AS WELL AS A SLIGHTLY EXPANDED EXPOSURE OF AMERICAN MEDIA PRODUCTS. IN ADDITION, ALTHOUGH NOT REFLECTED IN OUR RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE, LONG-STANDING MUTUAL DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FORMERLY EXISTING BETWEEN THE US AND BULGARIA ONLY WERE ELIMINATED. ONE SURPRISING ABERRATION WAS A PERIOD OF MORE THAN SIX WEEKS' RESUMED JAMMING OF SOME VOA BROADCASTS. FOLLOWING RESPONSES (PARAS 2 THROUGH 8) ARE KEYED TO CHECKLIST (REF B, WITH ADDITIONS FROM PARA 4, REF A). END SUMMARY.

2. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR US BUSINESSMEN

A. NO CHANGE

B. NO CHANGE  
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C. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR BUSINESS VISITORS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLE DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW AS THE NEW FRENCH-BUILT LUXURY CLASS EVROPA HOTEL OPENED IN SOFIA LAST SEPTEMBER. THIS SUCCESSFULLY ALLEVIATED DIFFICULTIES BUSINESS VISITORS HAD FACED BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE HOTEL SPACE. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND SUITABLE BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL PREMISES ARE STILL DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO OBTAIN.

D. NO CHANGE. THIS PROBABLY THE MOST GLARING AREA OF BULGARIAN NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF BASKET II. BASIC ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DATA IS STILL DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN, AND THE DATA THAT IS RELEASED IS OFTEN UNTIMELY, INCOMPLETE, OR INCOMPATIBLE WITH OTHER BULGARIAN DATA. THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RELY HEAVILY UPON ITS SYSTEM OF FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS TO INSULATE END-USERS FROM WESTERN BUSINESSMEN. INDEED, EVEN INFORMATION REGARDING THE PERSONNEL STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE FTO'S IS OBTAINABLE ONLY AFTER PERSISTENT EFFORT. PERHAPS THE WORST ASPECT OF THIS SITUATION IS THAT, GIVEN THE LACK OF EVEN RUDIMENTARY INFORMATION

REGARDING THE BULGARIAN ECONOMY, COMMERCIAL REQUIREMENTS,  
AND KEY BUSINESS PEOPLE, IT CONTINUES TO BE EXPENSIVE AND  
TIME-CONSUMING TO DO BUSINESS IN BULGARIA SINCE NUMEROUS  
FAMILIARIZATION VISITS ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ASSESS  
BUSINESS POTENTIAL AND LOCATE THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE.

E. NO CHANGE.

3. FAMILY MEETINGS

A. EMBASSY REVIEW OF B-2 ISSUANCE RECORDS FOR THE PERIOD  
INDICATED 138 INDIVIDUALS TRAVELLED TO VISIT CLOSE RELA-  
TIVES IN THE STATES.

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B. NO CHANGE.

C. NO CHANGE IN GOB POLICY OF REVIEW OF BULGARIAN APPLICA-  
TIONS FOR PASSPORTS AND EXIT PERMITS. CURRENT FIGURES  
REPORTED, WHILE LESS THAN THOSE REPORTED FIRST HALF 1977,  
ARE NONETHELESS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN FIGURES REPORTED  
PREVIOUS TO 1977.

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-----029221 150707Z /13

R 141145Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4420

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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4. FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS

A. NO CHANGE FROM REF C.

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B. STATISTICS WILL BE SUPPLIED BY THE DEPARTMENT. EMBASSY  
ISSUED 17 IVS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

C. NO CHANGE.

D. NO CHANGE

E. NO CHANGE.

F. THE LEVA COST (APPROXIMATELY 110 LEVA) REMAINS THE  
SAME AS DESCRIBED IN REF D. THE EXCHANGE RATE IS NOW  
\$1 EQUALS .90 LEVA.

5. BINATIONAL MARRIAGES

A. FIVE BINATIONAL MARRIAGES WERE RECORDED BY THE EMBASSY  
DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, WITH FIVE VISAS ISSUED.

B. NONE.

C. NONE.

D. NO CHANGE.

6. TRAVEL AND TOURISM

A. STATISTICS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. EMBASSY  
ISSUED 481 VISA TO BULGARIANS.

B. NO 1977 FIGURES AVAILABLE. LATEST BULGARIAN STATISTICS  
SHOW APPROXIMATELY 15,000 AMERICANS VISITED BULGARIA IN 1976.

C. NO CHANGE.  
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D. GOB INSTITUTED NEW PROCEDURES FOR VISA ISSUANCE ON  
OCTOBER 1, 1977 AND THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THAT BULGARIAN  
VISAS WOULD ONLY BE ISSUED BY BULGARIAN EMBASSIES AND CON-  
SULATES ABROAD RATHER THAN AT THE BORDER CONTROL POINTS AS  
HAD BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST. NONETHELESS, THE EMBASSY IS  
AWARE OF NUMEROUS AMERICAN VISITORS WHO HAVE OBTAINED  
BULGARIAN ENTRY VISAS AT BORDER CONTROL POINTS SINCE THE  
INSTITUTION OF THE NEW PROCEDURES.

E. NO CHANGE.

F. SEE 6, D ABOVE.

#### 7. INFORMATION

A. ESTIMATES IN REFS D AND E OF US PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE  
IN BULGARIA REMAINED VALID DURING THIS PERIOD.

B. NO CHANGE. SEE 7, A ABOVE.

C. NO CHANGE.

D. FOURTEEN US FEATURE FILMS WERE SHOWN COMMERCIALY AND  
THREE ON TV. ONE NON-FEATURE FILM WAS SHOWN COMMERCIALY  
AND FIVE ON TV (THRILLER AND BERNSTEIN ON MUSIC  
(SERIES), JAZZ, DIXIELAND, AND FAMOUS AMERICAN TRUMPET  
PLAYERS.)

E. VOA'S BULGARIAN-LANGUAGE BREAKFAST SHOWS (0400-0415 AND  
0515-0530 GMT) WERE JAMMED ON MEDIUM WAVE BUT NOT ON SW  
FROM NOVEMBER 11 TO DECEMBER 27. THE JAMMING CEASED  
FOLLOWING A PROTEST TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BY  
THE AMBASSADOR. RFE BROADCASTS CONTINUED TO BE JAMMED,  
ALTHOUGH WITH LESS THAN 100 PERCENT SUCCESS.

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F. NO CHANGE FROM REF G.

8. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS

A. NO MULTIPLE EXIT/ENTRY VISAS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY AMERICAN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. ONE SINGLE-ENTRY NON-JOURNALIST VISA WAS GRANTED TO "LA TIMES" CORRESPONDENT MURRAY SEEGER.

B. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO VISAS WERE REFUSED.

C. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NONE.

D. DOYLE MCMANUS, UPI, WAS ACCREDITED DURING THIS PERIOD, MAKING THREE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS -- ALL RESIDING IN BELGRADE-- TO COVER THE UNIVERSIADA GAMES IN AUGUST, BEFORE HIS ACCREDITATION. THE OTHER TWO DID NOT VISIT.

E. NONE EXPELLED.

F. NO CHANGE.

G. FIVE VISAS WERE ISSUED TO BULGARIAN JOURNALISTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
RUFHMDAMEMBASSY MADRID 95  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
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H. THREE OF VISAS REPORTED IN 8, G ABOVE WERE REFUSED  
AND SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED AFTER 212 D(3) A(28) WAIVERS GRANTED.

I. NONE.  
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9. COMMENT: REPORTING PERIOD INCLUDED TIME JUST PRIOR  
TO AND OPENING MONTHS OF BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE.  
ALTHOUGH CSCE AS QUESTION REMAINED VERY MUCH IN FRONT OF  
BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE DURING THIS TIME THROUGH  
MEDIUCORAGE OF CONFERENCE, BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT TOOK FEW  
IF ANY STEPS DURING PERIOD THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED A  
MODIFICATION OF ITS RECORD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREE-  
MENT ITSELF. FAMILY MEETINGS AND REUNIFICATIONS CONTINUED  
THROUGH 1977 AT A RATE HIGHER THAN DURING PREVIOUS PERIODS  
AND THERE WAS A SLIGHT INCREASE IN BULGARIAN PROGRAMMING  
OF US MEDIA PRODUCTS DURING THE LATTER HALF OF 1977,  
INCLUDING THE CONTINUED LIMITED SALE IN A FEW MAJOR HOTELS  
AND KIOSKS OF THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD-TRIBUNE AND OTHER  
WESTERN NEWSPAPERS (A PRACTICE THAT CEASED IN EARLY 1978).

10. A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN US/BULGARIAN BILATERAL RELA-  
TIONS, NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE BUT CON-  
SISTENT WITH CSCE PRINCIPLES WAS THE MUTUAL ELIMINATION  
BY THE TWO COUNTRIES IN NOVEMBER 1977 OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS  
APPLYING ONLY TO AMERICAN AND BULGARIAN DIPLOMATS. THE  
SUBJECT HAD BEEN UNDER NEGOTIATION FOR SEVERAL YEARS BUT  
WAS IDENTIFIED AS CSCE IMPLEMENTATION WHEN IT OCCURRED.

11. A STILL NOT CLEARLY EXPLAINED NOR WIDELY PUBLICIZED  
ACTION TAKEN BY THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT DURING THIS  
PERIOD, CLEARLY RETROGRADE WITHIN A CSCE CONTEXT, WAS THE  
JAMMING FROM NOVEMBER 11 TO DECEMBER 27 OF SOME MEDIUM  
WAVE BROADCASTS OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA. (VOA SHORTWAVE

BROADCASTS WERE NOT DISTURBED.) A PROTEST BY THE AMBASSADOR TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, POINTING OUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF BULGARIA'S JFWING SUCH JAMMING, AFTER HAVING CEASED IT THREE YEARS BEFORE, BOTH IN TERMS OF BILATERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIONS AND IN REFERENCE TO CSCE, BROUGHT IT TO AN END.

12. IN GENERAL, BULGARIA'S RECORD ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION REMAINS UNDISTINGUISHED. ITS POLICY AND PRACTICE IN MAKING AVAILABLE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION REMAINS UNCHANGED AND DISMAL. AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN STILL FIND DOING BUSINESS WITH BULGARIA A TRIAL OF PATIENCE AND ARE DISCOURAGED BY BULGARIAN LACK OF COOPERATION AS MUCH AS BY THE PRESENT DOWNSWING IN BULGARIAN IMPORTS OF HARD-CURRENCY GOODS AND SERVICES. TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF BULGARIA IS STILL AN ENORMOUS PRIVILEGE FOR A BULGARIAN AND ATTEMPTED EMIGRATION A TRIAL BY FIRE. DESPITE TOKEN SALE OF FW WESTERN NEWSPAPERS IN SOFIA AND OCCASIONAL TAME WESTERN FILMS OR TV PROGRAMS, THE BULGARIAN POPULATION REMAINS ALMOST COMPLETELY BLOCKED FROM ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM NON-COMMUNIST SOURCES. ALSO, THERE ARE NO WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES OF WESTERN MEDIA RESIDENT IN BULGARIA BECAUSE NONE IS SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN BULGARIAN MATTERS, OR FEELS THAT BULGRIAN DEVELOPMENTS ARE SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT, TO MAINTAIN A REPRESENTATIVE HERE. IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME OR ASSIST SUCH AN ESTABLISHMENT, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT IT WOULD NOT. IN THE MEANTIME, THE ABSENCE OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS REINFORCES THE ISOLATION OF THE BULGARIAN PEOPLE THAT THE BULGARIANVOVERNMENT ITSELF DESIRES.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MILI, SHUM, BU, US, CSCE, NATO, WTO  
**To:** STATE  
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